

PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS

Mini-Park

Size 2 acres or smaller

Service Area Neighborhood

Intended Service Group Neighborhood residents within walking distance.

Description Mini-parks, due to their size, provide limited recreation experiences; however they can have a visual value by providing a green space in the developed neighborhood. If seating areas are included, mini-parks can also be a social gathering place, particularly if located in an area of high activity or population density.

Recommended Facilities Mini-parks are not recommended in the future, except for infill situations where no other opportunities exist for recreation. Provide seating, picnic tables, informal grass play area, planting and tot play area where appropriate.

Examples of Existing Mini-Parks Airport Park, Tony Aguirre Park, John Z. Hernandez Park, McCarthy Park and Las Brisas Estates Parks.



John Z. Hernandez Park



Tony Aguirre Park

Neighborhood Park

Size 3 to 10 acres (5 acre minimum preferred).

Service Area Neighborhood.

Intended Service Group Neighborhood residents within walking distance.

Description Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system and serve as the traditional urban recreational and social focus of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood parks should serve as extensions of the residential fabric, allowing for recreational and social activities that cannot be accommodated in residential yards due to size or density limitations. They should be designed for both active and passive recreation activities tailored to the specific needs of the neighborhood, and should address the needs of all age groups and physical abilities. Park design should create a “sense of place” that enhances neighborhood and community identity.

Park features that would create a community-wide “destination” should be carefully considered for a neighborhood park. Restrooms, off-street parking, and lit recreation facilities would generally not be considered for neighborhood parks because they encourage park use by those beyond the intended service area. However, such

facilities may be considered if specific park program needs dictate. For instance, if park recreation programs or field use are regularly scheduled, some type of restroom facilities may be required.

Potential Facilities Design of each neighborhood park should include a master planning process with neighborhood involvement. Specific features of each neighborhood park should be based on the needs and desires of the neighborhood residents.

Potential features are: preschool and elementary-aged play areas; hard courts (basketball, volleyball, handball and/or tennis); specialty courts (shuffleboard, bocce ball, horse shoes); picnic area; shaded seating area; open grass area for informal play; limited sports fields for league play; security lighting; recreation checkout facility (where programming needs dictate, such as for after-school recreation programs); and walking and bicycling trails.

Neighborhood park facilities and programs are not typically reservable or fee based.

Examples of Existing Neighborhood Parks Frank Klauer Memorial Park and Dunne Park.



Frank Klauer Park

**Neighborhood/
School Park**

Size 3-10 acres.

Service Area Neighborhood.

Intended Service Groups Residents within walking distance and school students.

Description The neighborhood/school park is similar in size and function to a neighborhood park, but is located immediately adjacent to a school. Some of the recreational functions can be combined with the school site, such as hard courts, sports fields, and play areas, to maximize efficient use of resources. Use of school restrooms should be considered if park site includes play fields for organized city sports activities.

Opportunities for tot play areas, tables and benches should be incorporated so as to allow day use of park during school hours. As part of the park master planning process, scheduling and use allocations need to be determined, to minimize scheduling conflicts between school and neighborhood use of facilities, and to coordinate operations issues such as maintenance.



Calaveras Park

Potential Facilities Same as neighborhood parks.

Examples of Existing Neighborhood/School Parks Cerra Vista School Park and Calaveras School Park.

Community Parks

Size 10 acre minimum.

Service Area City-wide.

Intended Service Groups All City residents including community and school groups; may also serve neighborhood park function for surrounding residents; may attract regional residents.

Description Community parks focus on meeting the recreational needs of the community-at-large. They allow for group activities and other recreational pursuits that are not recommended at neighborhood parks.

While community parks also often meet the needs of neighborhoods, frequently community parks are “destination” parks with special facilities, such as lighted sports fields, amphitheaters, gymnasiums, etc. that serve the entire community. Restrooms, off-street parking, night lighting of facilities and other active recreation facilities are typical park elements that encourage higher levels of public use and longer user-days when compared to neighborhood parks.

In addition, community parks may have unique landscape features that enhance community identity.

Potential Facilities Design of each community park should include a master planning process with community involvement. Specific features of each community park will depend on how the park is anticipated to meet community recreation needs.

Community parks can include the same features as neighborhood parks (see Neighborhood Parks description), plus the following: Lighted sports fields for night use; concession stand; restrooms; off-street parking; amphitheater; community center including performing and visual arts facility; nature center; gymnasium; aquatics facility; water feature for play, such as a walk-through fountain; group picnic areas; dog off-leash area; BMX bike trails; equestrian facilities; fitness courses; special group camping area; limited active recreation use area.

Facilities and programs may be reservable and fee based.

Examples of Existing Community Parks Vista Park Hill.

Trails/Linear Parkways

Size No minimum or maximum length.

Service Area City-wide.

Intended Service Groups All City residents; may attract regional residents.

Description Trails should be grade-separated for pedestrian and/or bicycle use. Some trails may be appropriate for equestrian use, although there are no standards for equestrian use of City parks. Trails should connect various areas of the City, as well as parks and park preserves. Trails may serve as part of a regional trails network. They should connect to the City's on-street bicycle route system for recreational use as well as providing a means of alternative transportation.

City trails should be coordinated with the County Bicycle Plan for both the on-street bicycle route system and the Class I off-street bicycle trail system.

Potential Facilities Staging areas including parking and restrooms, interpretive and directional signage, fitness trails, and overlooks.

Examples of Trails None at this time in Hollister.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Size Depends on facility.

Service Area City-wide.

Intended Service Groups All City residents, designated community user groups, school groups, and some nonresidents.

Description Special use facilities meet City-wide recreational needs and are not necessarily located in parks. Special use facilities generally meet a specific recreation or cultural function and do not fall into one of the other classification categories.

Multipurpose uses should be encouraged, provided that additional uses do not conflict with the intended special use.

Potential Facilities Depending on the use, facilities and programs may be fee based and reservable.

Examples of Existing Special Use Facilities Community Center, Rancho San Justo, Marguerite Maze Sports Fields and Hollister Skate Park.



Hollister Skate Park

PARKS SYSTEM INVENTORY

The following tables and maps summarize existing facilities.

Table 1
Existing Parks and Facilities

Paste-up

Table 1
Existing Parks and Facilities (continued)

Paste-up

DEMOGRAPHICS

The growth of Hollister is reflected in new neighborhoods, streets and commercial districts. Hollister' s population has grown from 19,212 in 1989 to 35,643 in 2000. This is a greater increase than projected by the General Plan (1995), but a smaller increase than was anticipated by the City' s Parks and Recreation Master Plan (1989).

Table 2
Population in Hollister

Year	Hollister Population	County Area (including Cities)
1980	19,212	25,005
1995	22,046	41,766
2000	35,643	53,234
2010	42,118	64,830

Due to an unexpected population growth, a Growth Management Ordinance was adopted September 2001 which limits annual growth to 2010 to 42,118

Hollister' s population includes a diversity of ages, cultural backgrounds and interests. Much of Hollister' s future growth will consist of residents working in Silicon Valley—many moving to Hollister for an affordable home or smaller community. People moving to Hollister from larger, metropolitan areas are bringing higher expectations for park facilities and recreation services.

Table 3
Ethnicity in Hollister

	1980¹	1989²	2000³
Hispanic	54.9%	57%	67%
White	41.9%	40%	29.7%
Black	0.2%	—	0.4%
Asian	2.4%	—	2.5%
Other Races	0.6%	3%	0.4%

Sources:

- 1) *1980 U.S. Census Data*
- 2) *City of Hollister, Parks and Recreation Master Plan (1989)*
- 3) *San Benito County Chamber of Commerce, National Planning Data Corporation's On-line Demographic Service*

The City of Hollister has an increasingly younger population. Rather than decreasing, as previously projected by the 1989 Park Master Plan, ages 0–4 and 5–17 have increased! As the number of community' s youth increases, the demand has grown for recreation facilities and programs.

Table 4
Age Distribution in San Benito County

Age Group	Actual 1980	Actual 1990	Projected 2000	Actual 2000
0–4 years	9.2%	9.2%	8.2%	9.7%
5–17 years	23.9%	21.4%	21.0%	26.0%
18–64 years	57.0%	60.4%	61.6%	55.2%
65 + years	9.9%	9.0%	9.2%	9.1%

Source: Department of Finance

This trend is keeping with an observation that young couples and families are moving to Hollister for the quality of life and affordable housing. From a recreation perspective, this trend suggests that all types of recreation from children' s play to active young adult sports, will be needed.

While there is a decrease in percentage of population ages 18–64 and 65+, there will continue to be interest in passive opportunities such as walking, bicycling paths and natural areas.

Additional recreation facilities to address age group interests and needs are summarized under Park Facility Needs.

REGIONAL DEMO- GRAPHIC INFLUENCE

Hollister has been experiencing a continued growth cycle, creating an ever increasing demand on parks, recreation facilities and programs.

The primary change in population represents an increase in the number of people living in Hollister while commuting to the San Jose area for employment. Many of these are families who may have previously

experienced more extensive recreation services in other larger cities and have high expectations for Hollister park facilities and programs.

**EXISTING CITY
PARKLAND STANDARD**

The City of Hollister currently uses a 3 acres of parkland per thousand population standard and a goal of 4 acres per 1,000. In the last ten years, the City has developed 15 acres of parkland bringing the total to 58 acres, including sports field facilities. Veterans Memorial Park (County owned) has previously been counted as City parkland in the past, for a total of 93 park acres within the City. The City, however, has no direct control over developing the park site.

*Table 5
Current Hollister Parkland Acreage*

Year	City Owned	Other	Total Acres
1989	43 acres	35.25 - Veterans Memorial Park	78.25
2000	58 acres	35.25 acres	93.25

*Table 6
Parkland Standards and Projections*

Year	Parkland Required– Acres per 1000 Residents		Total Acres– City Parkland	Additional Parkland Acres Needed to Meet City Standard		Acres - County Parks
	3/1000	4/1000		3/1000	4/1000	
1989	57	86	43	14	43	35.25
2000	106.92	142.57	58	48.92	84.57	35.25
2010	126.35	168.47	n/a	68.35	110.47	35.25

**EXISTING PARK
SYSTEM GOALS**

The current park system does not meet the adopted 3-acre per 1,000 standard even if Veterans Memorial Park is included in the parkland total.

Many residents do not live within a 1/2-mile distance of a neighborhood park (see Existing Parkland Map, page 22) and several parks are too small to be considered neighborhood parks. The smaller parks not meeting current neighborhood park standards are considered as serving the smaller 1/4-mile radius service area. To

provide equitable distribution of neighborhood parks throughout the City, an additional 30-45 acres are needed.

Additional recreation facilities identified in the 1989 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, such as a community recreation center, would include an aquatics facility, gymnasium, and meeting rooms. An additional 5- 25 acres will be needed for such facilities.

COUNTY INFLUENCE

In addition to Hollister residents, approximately 17,000 residents in the unincorporated areas around the City create additional pressure on City park facilities and recreation programs. Parkland demand for the County residents are not currently included in this analysis. Veterans Memorial Park currently provides 35 acres of parkland. Practically speaking, its parkland capability should be considered as additional land to satisfy County residents' additional park demand.

EXISTING PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES

Recreation opportunities may be expanded at existing park sites to increase their function. Play equipment at McCarthy, Rancho San Justo and Cerra Vista Parks can improve their useful needs to residents. Vista Park Hill is largely underdeveloped. With improved access, security and park improvements, this park may better service City residents. However, topography limits site development opportunity.

Several potential park sites have the ability to meet current demand. Depending on their final location and size, they may also serve future resident neighborhoods.

The San Benito River provides an edge to the City along its southwestern boundary. With percolation pond lands and schools, additional parkland and trails could be an asset to Hollister and a tremendous recreation and open space benefit to residents.

11x17
San Benito River Greenbelt

PARK MAINTENANCE

The daily and seasonal care of park facilities includes a wide range of activities, staff, equipment, materials and contracted services. Currently, there are 5 fulltime maintenance staff and 3 seasonal staff for Buildings and Maintenance.

Table 7
Maintenance Responsibilities

Facilities	Tasks
City Hall MSF Gardens	Plumbing, electrical, building repair
Engineering Facilities	Landscape maintenance
Community Center	Landscape maintenance
Police Station	Landscape maintenance
Street Trees	Regular maintenance
	Emergency services
Parking Lots	Sweeping, landscape maintenance
Sound Walls	Planting, irrigation and graffiti control
Ballfields	See Table 8
Parks	See Table 8

Park maintenance staff is involved in a variety of public facility maintenance beyond parks. The average number of hours is equivalent to 6 full time staff positions. With parkland totals projected to double over the next ten years, a minimum of one full time staff position will need to be added for park maintenance every two years.

Maintenance Cost

For the above landscape and park features, 2000–2001 budget request is \$756,000. Staff and operational costs are General Fund costs. Future staff will continue to be a General Fund cost. However, additional equipment required for new parkland maintenance may be funded from park impact fees.

Table 8
Typical Neighborhood Park Maintenance Program
5 Acres Turfed Area, Playground Apparatus, Softball field and Benches

Activity	Frequency per Month
Irrigation Repairs Replacements	4 hrs/week: man and truck
Mowing	3 hrs/week: man, truck and mower
Edging	6 hrs/month: man truck and edger
Playground Equipment Inspections Repairs	10 hrs/month: man and truck
Rodent Control	Contract Services
Landscape Replacement Trimming	12 hrs/month: man, truck and hand tools
Litter and Debris Removal	10 hrs/week: man and truck
Graffiti Repair	4 hrs/week: man, truck and spray cans
Weed Control Pre-emergence Post-emergence	3 hrs/week: man, truck and backpack sprayer
Grand Total for Year	\$ 28,562

PARK MAINTENANCE CONDITIONS

Since the 1989 Master Plan, Building and Grounds maintenance staff has been reduced by 2 fulltime (30%), and 5 temporary positions (60%). At the same time, 5 additional parks (22.5 acres), have been created and soundwall maintenance has been added.

Building and Grounds staff has made tremendous adjustments to accommodate resource reductions. Task scheduling may delay facility repairs for up to a month.

Public perception of maintenance has been increasingly critical, particularly as new parks are built. In the recent questionnaire, 65% of respondents expressed a concern for lack of park maintenance.

**FACILITY UPGRADES
& DEFERRED
MAINTENANCE**

Compounding daily maintenance pressures are facility upgrade needs and deferred maintenance. Over the last ten years, several parks have been upgraded to respond to increased use and aging facilities:

- Rancho San Justo Sportsfields: scoreboards (FY 2000/2001)
- Dunne Park: play equipment and tennis court resurfacing
- Cerra Vista School Park: infield and backstops
- Marguerite Maze Sports Fields: backstops and infields

The following list of improvements at existing parks reflects park needs, code and safety compliance and replacement needs beyond planned park enhancements.

***Table 9
Deferred Maintenance***

1. John Z. Hernandez	Upgrade play equipment and safety area to current Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and American Disability Act (ADA) guidelines.
2. Calaveras Community Park	Restroom repair
3. Vista Park Hill	Upgrade play equipment; steps and ramps to current code; renovate landscape areas; and vehicle circulation for improved security. Repair irrigation system at ballfield.

RESTROOMS

With the level of programmed sports activities, restroom maintenance is perceived to be inadequate. Community residents and park users have extended park visits for sports tournaments and activities. Restrooms are frequently closed for extended periods for repairs. Elsewhere, portable toilets are provided but not cleaned as frequently as necessary. The lack of operational restrooms and marginal cleanliness is a health concern.

Maintenance staff currently manage permanent restrooms at Dunne, Calaveras, and Vista Hill Park. Portable facilities are located at Rancho San Justo Sports Complex. A complete cleaning each morning, with an afternoon spot clean, require 1-1/2 hours daily/weekdays at each location. Currently, this requires an equivalent time of almost one entire staff day (6 hours minimum) without including repair time.

On weekends and sports events, restrooms should be checked every 1–2 hours. If programmed sports use of neighborhood parks is continued, additional restrooms are recommended.

